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Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00 ACDA-05 /075 W
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P R 040012Z JUN 75
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3848
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

HEHIP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 498
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1056

BANGKOK FOR ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:-SPFOR PINT CH US
SUBJECT: AMERICAN EDITORS INTERVIEWED TENG HSIAO-PING

1. ASNE GROUP MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING JUNE 2 AND HAVE ALL FILED STORIES WHICH DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN FROM WIRE SERVICES. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY
OF COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS PASSED TO US BY EDITORS DURING FAREWELL BANQUET EVENING OF JUNE 2.

2. ALTHOUGH EDITORS WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED THIS SESSION WITH TENG DIFFER AS TO SOME FACTS, THEY AGREED THAT HE SOLIDLY REAFFIRMED PRC WELCOME TO PRESIDENT FORD, WHETHER OR NOT USG IS PREPARED TO RESOLVE THE TAIWAN PROBLEM AT THIS TIME. TENG STATED THAT THE PRC POSITION ON TAIWAN IS WELL-KNOWN AND SAID THE US MUST ADJUST TO THIS. HE
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ADDED, HOWEVER,, THAT THERE IS TIME, BXL DEMURRED WHEN

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ASKED HOW MUCH TIME.

3. ON JAPAN, TENG TALKED ABOUT THE "PRINCIPLE" THAT ALL US TROOPS MUST BE PULLED OUT, BUT INDICATED THAT THE PRC, PRAGMATICALLY, WOULD UNDERSTAND IF ALL TROOPS NOT IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWN. TENG REPEATED THE STANDARD PRC LINE ON THE SOVIET THREAT TO EUROPE AND DANGERS OF A NEW WORLD WAR, BUT PLACED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE FACT THAT BLAME RESTED WITH THE SOVIET SIDE. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF CAMBODIA OR THE MATAGUEZ INCIDENT.

4. ON PRC INTERNAL SITUATION, ONE REPORTER ASKED TENG IF HE WAS RUNNING THINGS IN CHINA. TENG REPLIED THAT CHAIRMAN MAO'S HEALTH IS BETTER THAN MANY PEOPLE SAY, AND ADDED THAT HE (TENG) IS SIMPLY ONE OF MANY DOING A JOB. ASKED ABOUT THE SUCCESSION PROBLEM TENG SAID THAT THE THREE-IN-ONE PRINCIPLE OF OLD, MIDDLEWOARDD AND YOUNG WOULD APPLY. POINTING TO NANCY TANG, HIS INTERPRETER, HE NOTED THAT SHE IS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD GOVERN CHINA TOGETHER. AT ONE POINT ONE OF THE EDITORS PRODUCED A ROBERT ELEGANT ANALYSIS ALLEGING THAT CHANG CHUN-CHIAO'S ARTICLE IN RED FLAG CONSTITUTED AN ATTACK ON MAO AND ASKED FOR TENG'S REACTION. THIS PRODUCED HURRIED CONSULTATION AMONG THE CHINESE PRESENT. NANCY TANG FINALLY TRANSLATED THE QUESTION WHICH TENG HSIAO-PING DISMISSED AS NONSENSE. (THAT EVENING MA YU-CHEN OF THE MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN RECONSIDERING TRYING TO GET ELEGANT A VISA FOR SOME TIME BUT THAT THIS HAD ENDED ELEGANT'S CHANCES.)

5. MA, IN REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT'S REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON REPORTING SESSION WITH TENG, TOLD EDITORS THAT THE VERY FACT OF THE MEETING WAS IMPORTANT AND NOTED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE SULZBERGER IN 2973 THAT SUCH A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL HAD MET WITH US JOURNALISTS.

6. WHILE JUNE 2 SESSION WITH TENG WAS ON THE RECORD, EARLIER SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS OFF THE RECORD, AND CHIAO IS "FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN" TO WHOM SOME EDITORS ATTRIBUTED STATEMENTS INTRODUCED AS SUPPLEMENT TO STORIES FOR WHICH TENG INTERVIEW PROVIDED LEADS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE WE WERE UNABLE TO GET FULL RECORDS OF INTERVIEWS, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT REPEATING TO US EXTRACTS OF PUBLISHED REPORTS.

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